

The House Committee on Economic Development and Tourism offers the following substitute to HR 1515:

A RESOLUTION

1 To create the Georgia Action Team For Entrepreneurship Excellence; to provide for the
2 membership, duties, and operation of the joint executive, House, and Senate team; and for
3 other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, a Georgia Action Team For Entrepreneurship Excellence is needed to create an
5 inviting environment for entrepreneurs in this state and to make Georgia the #1
6 DESTINATION FOR ENTREPRENEURS in the United States of America; and

7 WHEREAS, in order to provide economic growth in Georgia, the state must become a world
8 center for entrepreneurs; and

9 WHEREAS, entrepreneurs are attracted to areas where there is strong public support for the
10 growth of science, innovation, technology, the arts, energy, and education, and these
11 economic pillars create advancements that can keep Georgia competitive in the world-wide
12 economic market; and

13 WHEREAS, Georgia loses massive potential return on its research and economic
14 development investments to other states that have developed plans and infrastructures to
15 support the growth of entrepreneurship; and

16 WHEREAS, this state cannot afford to ignore the need to attract entrepreneurs and new
17 businesses to this state, for each year Georgia fails to implement effective initiatives, the state
18 falls further behind the competition and loses its substantial educational and economic
19 development investments; and

20 WHEREAS, to become a world economic leader, the government, entrepreneurs, and
21 universities of this state must be united in a comprehensive effort to showcase the inventory
22 of our state's incredible assets and brand the State of Georgia as a state with a reputation for
23 welcoming entrepreneurs; and

H. R. 1515 (SUB)

24 WHEREAS, by attracting entrepreneurs to this state, Georgia would also attract international
25 investors and angel and venture capital investors; and

26 WHEREAS, the Georgia Action Team For Entrepreneurship Excellence should be
27 established to make Georgia the #1 DESTINATION FOR ENTREPRENEURS in the United
28 States of America.

29 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
30 GEORGIA that there is created the Georgia Action Team For Entrepreneurship Excellence.

31 (a) The team shall consist of the following 27 voting members:

- 32 (1) President of the Georgia Chamber of Commerce;
- 33 (2) President of the Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce;
- 34 (3) President of the Georgia Research Alliance;
- 35 (4) Executive Director of the Georgia Council for the Arts;
- 36 (5) Chief executive officer of the Technology Association of Georgia;
- 37 (6) President of the Consortium for Entrepreneurship Education;
- 38 (7) President of the Georgia Economic Developers Association;
- 39 (8) Editor of the *Atlanta Business Chronicle*;
- 40 (9) Editor of the southeastern edition of the *Wall Street Journal*;
- 41 (10) President of the Georgia Rural Entrepreneurship through Action Learning;
- 42 (11) Commissioner of economic development;
- 43 (12) Director of the Georgia Small Business Accelerator;
- 44 (13) President of the Georgia Public Policy Foundation;
- 45 (14) Chief economist for Standard & Poor's;
- 46 (15) Chief executive officer for the Kauffman Foundation;
- 47 (16) Executive director for OneGeorgia Authority;
- 48 (17) Director of the Savannah Small Business Accelerator;
- 49 (18) Director of the Georgia Angel Investment Network;
- 50 (19) Chairman of the Ariel Savannah Angel Partners;
- 51 (20) President of the Atlanta Technology Angels;
- 52 (21) Director of the National Federation of Independent Businesses;
- 53 (22) Two members appointed by the Governor who shall be experts in the area of angel
54 or venture capital investment or successful entrepreneurs;
- 55 (23) Two members appointed by the President of the Senate who shall be experts in the
56 area of angel or venture capital investment or successful entrepreneurs; and
- 57 (24) Two members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives who shall
58 be experts in the area of angel or venture capital investment or successful entrepreneurs.

59 (b) In addition, the team shall consist of the following 8 nonvoting advisory members:

- 60 (1) Chancellor of the University System of Georgia;
- 61 (2) Commissioner of technical and adult education;
- 62 (3) Director of Georgia 4-H;
- 63 (4) Director of the Georgia Future Farmers of America;
- 64 (5) State director of the Boy Scouts of America;
- 65 (6) State director of the Girl Scouts of America;
- 66 (7) Chairperson of the standing Senate Economic Development Committee; and
- 67 (8) Chairperson of the standing House of Representatives Committee on Economic
- 68 Development and Tourism.

69 (c) The members appointed by the Governor shall serve initial terms to expire July 1, 2011.

70 One member appointed by the President of the Senate and one member appointed by the

71 Speaker of the House of Representatives shall serve an initial term to expire July 1, 2012.

72 Other appointed members shall serve an initial term to expire July 1, 2013. Following their

73 initial terms, all appointed members shall serve for three-year terms. Initial terms shall

74 commence immediately following appointment.

75 (d) Voting members may transact business and vote through a designated representative or

76 proxy, provided that the appointment of such proxy is made in writing, signed by the

77 member, and provides for the dates during which such proxy shall be authorized to serve.

78 (e) A quorum for purposes of transacting all business of the team shall be 15 members.

79 Members may attend official meetings via electronic means.

80 (f) Vacancies in positions shall be filled in the same manner in which the original position

81 was filled. Where a member is designated by appointment or election to a designated office,

82 no member position shall be filled until the designated office is filled.

83 (g) A chairperson and vice chairperson shall be selected from among the members of the

84 action team by majority vote of the members. The chairperson shall call all meetings of the

85 committee. The term of the chairperson and vice chairperson shall be for one year beginning

86 July 1 of each year; provided, however, that the initial terms of the chairperson and vice

87 chairperson shall begin immediately upon appointment and shall expire on June 30, 2011.

88 An initial meeting of the team shall be called no later than one week following the enactment

89 of this resolution. The team shall meet no less than once every three months. One meeting

90 each year shall be designated the "Governor's Summit on Entrepreneurship," and the

91 Governor shall be invited to attend and address the team regarding issues, concerns, or

92 recommendations related to entrepreneurs and economic development in Georgia. The team

93 may conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or

94 convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and

95 accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution.

96 (h) At the initial meeting of the team, the chairperson shall assign members to the following
97 subcommittees:

98 (1) The Subcommittee for Making Georgia the #1 Destination for Entrepreneurs which
99 shall be a long-term and ongoing subcommittee that will continue to explore ideas for
100 making Georgia more attractive to entrepreneurs;

101 (2) The Subcommittee for Liquidity which shall be a short-term subcommittee that,
102 within 45 days of this resolution's adoption, will provide solutions, suggestions, and plans
103 for resolving both short-term and long-term liquidity problems facing entrepreneurs in
104 Georgia; and

105 (3) The Subcommittee for Branding which shall focus on branding Georgia as the #1
106 destination for entrepreneurs in the United States of America and on or before December
107 15, 2010, shall launch the brand of Georgia.

108 Initial plans and recommendations of the team shall be provided to the Governor, President
109 of the Senate, and Speaker of the House of Representative no later than September 1, 2010.

110 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the team shall undertake to recommend means by which
111 an environment of entrepreneurial excellence can be created and how the state can showcase
112 the inventory of its resources, assets, and opportunities for entrepreneurs. The team shall
113 undertake a study of Georgia's applicable laws generally relating to science, innovation,
114 technology, energy, and entrepreneurship and alternative forms of investment in these
115 essential valuable resources. The team shall also study ways to make Georgia the world's
116 #1 DESTINATION FOR ENTREPRENEURS in the United States of America. Throughout
117 its existence, the team shall continue to work on issues relating to finding liquidity for
118 entrepreneurs and branding Georgia as the state that supports and welcomes
119 entrepreneurship. No per diem payments or reimbursements shall be made to any member
120 of the team. The team shall make recommendations for changes in legislation and activities
121 or functions of governmental agencies and provide copies of proposed recommendations and
122 any relevant or supporting reports to the Governor, President of the Senate, and Speaker of
123 the House of Representatives not later than November 1 each year. Such annual report shall
124 also summarize the activities of the team for the preceding year.

125 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the team shall stand abolished on July 1, 2015, unless
126 further extended by the General Assembly.